

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0019] of the Specification as follows:

[0019] In the Figure, there is shown a cooking appliance in the form of a steam cooking appliance for carrying out the method of the present invention. The cooking appliance has a cooking chamber 2, which is bounded by a housing 4 and a door 6 in its closed position. In the Figure, door 6 is shown in its open position. Door 6 is held to housing 4 in a conventional manner by a hinge (~~not shown in the Figure~~), which is mounted on housing 4 and located in the lower portion of housing 4 when the cooking appliance is in the operating position. The hinge allows door 6 to pivot to a position approximately horizontal with respect to the operating position. The hinge has a return element 9 (~~not shown in the Figure~~), which takes the form of a return spring and is in force-transmitting connection with housing 4 and door 6. The return element aids in moving door 6 toward the closed position. In the present exemplary embodiment, the cooking appliance of the present invention has a fan (~~not shown in the Figure~~), which sucks out vapors from cooking chamber 2 and discharges the vapors into the open environment mainly through a flow channel and an outlet 7 which is provided on the front of the cooking appliance and located above door 6 when the cooking appliance is in the operating position.

Please amend paragraph [0020] of the Specification as follows:

[0020] Door opening device 8 includes a positioning motor 8.1 in the form of an electrically heatable shape-memory element, a rod 8.2, and a guiding means 8.3 for rod 8.2. Rod 8.2 can be automatically reciprocated in guide means 8.3 by the cooking appliance control system by means of positioning motor 8.1 in such a manner that door 6 can be automatically moved from its closed position to the predetermined open position, and vice versa. In the present exemplary embodiment, the open position shown in the Figure is defined such that door 6 is open approximately 1 degree in the open position. Rod 8.2 is designed in two parts, a spring means or damping means 8.4, for example, in the form of a spiral spring, being arranged between the two parts of rod 8.2. Spring or damping means 8.4 is inserted in a sleeve-like receptacle on one part of rod 8.2. The other part of

rod 8.2 engages, with one end, in the sleeve-like receptacle and is movably guided in the sleeve-like receptacle. At the same time, spring or damping means 8.4 is thereby held in place. Apart from that, the above-mentioned components of door opening device 8 are force-transmittingly connected to each other in a manner known to those skilled in the art.